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Historical Commission Minutes 08-07-2001

Arlington Historical Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday,
7 August 2001
Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:30 PM

Call to Order: Robert Botterio, presiding, with all commissioners (Patrick Guthrie, JoAnn Robinson, Jane Becker, Pamela Meister, Eric Stange, and Michael Ruderman) present; also secretary Lyz Carey.

Review of minutes of 3 July 2001: with typographical corrections, approved.

Communications, from Mr. Botterio:

A request for information, looking for battle sites of the Revolutionary War and of the War of 1812, was referred to Ms. Robinson.

More barrier materials will soon join those already employed by Robbins Library in its attempts to repel pigeons.

Mr. Stange will be videotaping this evening's proceedings to include in his profile of this commission.

Mr. Botterio was reminded by the town manager's office that all of the present commissioners' terms, with the exception of Mr. Stange's, are presently up for renewal, should each so choose to continue. All expressed their wishes to continue serving, and to continue being chaired by Mr. Botterio.

The owner of 32 Lake Street contacted the commission to learn if the partial removal of the side porch, that facing Herbert Street, would necessitate a hearing; Mr. Botterio responded for the commission that it would not.

Review of Projects

125 Brattle Lane/Farmer's Lane (Colonial Ridge LLC) 11/99: Robinson-houses springing up; no response on request for the statue of the renovation of preserved structure.

1167 Mass. Ave. (Mirak) 9/00: Guthrie-letter requesting completion of previously-agreed work sent, with no response.

23 Maple Street (Town of Arlington) 11/00: Robinson, Guthrie-no developments.

45 Fairview Avenue (Trvalik) 12/00: Botterio-no developments

19 Winter Street (McGlashing) 2/01: Ruderman-letter sent asking for completion date (installation of final missing cornerboard); promised for next week.

9 Brantwood Road (Stainton) 5/01: Botterio-no developments.

12 Orvis Road (Bento) 7/01: Ruderman-siding not yet begun.

Demolitions Pending

7 Brattle Court (Freedom Development): August 1, 2001

5 Brattle Court (Freedom Development): November 8, 2001

Mr. Botterio has received inquiries about these structures from Jonathan Nyberg, with an eye to possible restoration.

962 Massachusetts Avenue (Rita Yegian, owner): November 8, 2001

Reports

Whittemore-Robbins House (and outbuildings): Carey-funds have been approved (as discussed at the previous meeting) to study the carriage houses condition and formulate a plan to save it.

Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson-a masonry expert has examined portions of the Massachusetts Avenue wall and found them worse than can be repaired by being refaced. Ms. Robinson will have a structural engineer confirm the diagnosis, and recommended cure of replacement.

Updates and Expansion to Inventory: Meister, Guthrie, Stange-after discussion, the commissioner voted to authorize the chair to negotiate with Mr. Richard Duffy to provide inventory research, for a sum not to exceed \$1000, the terms to be arranged.

Inventory of public buildings: Stange and Robinson-no activity.

Education/Outreach: Stange, Botterio- with this evening's taping, the commission discussed the choice of the most desirable voice to narrate the completed work, leaving the final decision to Mr. Stange.

Massachusetts Avenue (Osco): Robinson- a letter has been sent expressing our concurrence in the building inspector's requirement of demolition.

Affordable Housing Task Force: Stange-no activity.

Zoning By-Law Review Committee: Meister-no activity.

Historic Districts Commission-minutes received. Mr. Ruderman will inquire as to the scope of the renovations to the spire of St. Athanasius the Great Church.

Old Burying Ground survey and assessment-Robinson-will procure estimates of cost.

Preservation Fund-Guthrie-no current matters.

Grants (Surveys and Planning): Guthrie, Stange-investigating applicability of a Mass. Historical Commission emergency grant to assist in the Whittemore-Robbins carriage house stabilization.

February 2002 Event: "Murder of Dr. Parkman" broadcast-forthcoming.

Town Day September 14-plans to be set at the next meeting.

New Business

8:00 pm Formal Hearing: 251 Massachusetts Avenue (Claude Fontaine, DMD, owner)

Dr. Fontaine appeared before the commission with a request to replace existing wooden windows with custom-fabricated vinyl sashes and frames, samples of which he brought with him.

The discussion revolved about two considerations: first, the esthetic choices involved in giving up the authentic look of the original mullions and sashes, especially the diamond panes, in the building Dr. Fontaine intends upon keeping as home and office; second, the relative costs and energy efficiencies of replacement *versus* restored and renovated windows.

The commission asked Dr. Fontaine to give these options some thought, and invited him to return when he has had the opportunity to obtain and review quotes on the cost of repairing the existing windows-further discussion of the petition was tabled until then. Msrs. Botterio and Guthrie will be the contact persons for this matter.

Next meeting confirmed for September 4, here, at 7:30 pm, and this meeting concluded at 10:30 pm.

For the Arlington Historical Commission,
A. Michael Ruderman, Commissioner